

Setti D. Warren, Mayor  
Robert J. DeRubeis,  
P & R Commissioner  
Judy Dore, Garden Manager



## New Community Garden Composting Area

Two of our volunteer garden committee members, Brian and Andy, have generously given of their time and expertise and have built new 3-bin compost storage systems, one for each garden level. These bins, constructed of donated wood pallets, can be used by all Nahanton's gardeners, if they wish, for the disposal of soft plant material that comes from their plots (grass, leaves, plant trimmings, hay, non-woody vines). Eventually, with some occasional turning and wetting, anyone who wants should be able to share in fresh compost for use in their individual plots. Signs with the specifics of what can and cannot be put in the bins have been posted at each level. Please pay attention to these signs and encourage others to do the same, as good compost is created from appropriate organic materials.

We thank Brian and Andy for this useful and much-needed addition to the gardens.



Bee Hive in Nahanton Park Community Gardens  
located in the upper level of the gardens

**The resident beekeeper** at Nahanton Park is David Reilly. David and his wife have lived in the Highlands for seventeen years. This is David's fifth year with hives at Nahanton Park. David reports a healthy hive has about 50,000-60,000 bees in residence and about 95% of them are female. A drone (male) is the result of an unfertilized egg, therefore they have no father but they do have grandfathers. Drones do not sting and cannot feed themselves, they depend on the females to feed them.

When a foraging bee returns to the hive she does a distinctive "dance" that informs the surrounding bees the distance to the pollen/nectar source, the direction to fly relative to the sun's rays and from the intensity of the dance the relative bounty of the source. David would like to thank the gardeners for their patience with his beekeeping blunders (bumbling?) while becoming less intrusive and a better beekeeper. If you see any bee activity David should be aware of please call him at 617.413.5194 or e-mail [reillydoc@aol.com](mailto:reillydoc@aol.com).

*More fun bee facts from David next month.....*

## Trash and Recyclables

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has graciously agreed to extend their trash and recyclables pick-up route into both the Upper and Lower Garden Areas. DPW will be delivering 3 blue barrels and 3 green barrels to each garden level, and for the length of the growing season, DPW's crew will be emptying these barrels once a week.

Blue barrels are for trash only. Green barrels are for recyclable materials only (paper, cardboard, cans, bottles) -- but not pet waste! Please do not place over-sized items in the trash, i.e., broken chairs or benches, but rather take them home and call DPW to schedule a curbside pick up at your home.

If anyone abuses this trash pick-up privilege, everyone will lose out, as DPW will suspend the service. If that occurs, all gardeners will be required to pack out what they bring in to the garden area. So please, let's work together and keep the common areas, the aisles and surrounding brush areas clean and all waste disposed of properly.



My green thumb came  
only as a result of the  
mistakes I made while  
learning to see things from  
the plant's point of  
view. ~H. Fred Dale



## Gardeners Corner...

1. Are you interested in trading seeds? Pruning classes? Sharing a tiller? Let us know!

617.796.1500 or e-mail [parks@newtonma.gov](mailto:parks@newtonma.gov)

1. Send us your best garden photo to be published here——>

Please e-mail your photo to [parks@newtonma.gov](mailto:parks@newtonma.gov)

*Picture submitted by Donna Cohen*

